least from time to time, via one or more links **13** to a movable barrier operator system **10**. (In fact, in many instances, the movable barrier operator system operational component **11** will comprise a part of such a movable barrier operator system **10**, but the above parsed illustration serves to aid in delineating certain logical aspects of these embodiments.) The movable barrier operator system **10** can comprise any presently known or hereafter-developed system including, but not limited to, garage door opening systems, gate moving systems, arm guard moving systems, fire door moving systems, and so forth.

[0021] The movable barrier operator system operational component **11** comprises a component that provides operational input to such a movable barrier operator system and can include, but is not limited to, a movable barrier operator or a movable barrier operator remote control device. This includes both portable and stationary devices as well as both wired and wireless devices. Wired devices that physically couple to the movable barrier operator system can utilize any appropriate link **13** including but not limited to optical signal paths and electrical signal paths (such as 2-wire conductor bundles as are well known in the art) that support, for example, a 2-wire conductor serial data bus (again as are well known in the art). Wireless devices can utilize any appropriate wireless link **13** including but not limited to infrared-based wireless platforms, radio frequency-based wireless platforms, optical signal-based wireless platforms, and/or sound-based (such as ultrasonic-based) wireless platforms as are generally well understood in the art.

[0022] In these embodiments the movable barrier operator system operational component **11** further comprises a display **12**. In a preferred approach this display **12** comprises at least one of an alphanumeric display or a graphics display (though in some settings, as when the movable barrier operator system operational component **11** comprises a movable barrier operator system wall-mounted user-input interface, the display **12** can comprise at least a numeric display as versus an alphanumeric display). Also in a preferred approach the movable barrier operator system operational component **11** comprises a housing **14** that houses at least a substantial part of the movable barrier operator system operational component **11** and that at least partially supports the display **12**. For example, the display **12** can be substantially retained within the housing **14** or can be partially or fully disposed and retained on an exterior surface of the housing **14**.

[0023] Such a display **12** can comprise a monochromatic display or a multi-color display (including but not limited to a full-color display) as may best suit the needs of a given application. Any presently known or hereafter-developed display technology can also likely be used as commensurate with the needs of a given setting, including but not limited to scanning-based platforms (such as cathode ray tube-based displays) and pixelated platforms (such as light emitting diode-based displays and liquid crystal displays).

[0024] In some embodiments the display **12** may comprise a display-only element. In a preferred approach, however, the display **12** will comprise, at least in part, a touch screen display as is known in the art.

[0025] As already noted above, in many instances the movable barrier operator system operational component **11** will comprise a movable barrier operator system remote control device that couples to a movable barrier operator. With reference to FIG. **2**, such a movable barrier operator system remote control device can operably couple to a plurality of movable barrier operators **21** and **22**. Such a coupling can be achieved in various ways. For example, a serial bus **24** can be used to achieve this result. As another example, a parallel coupling network **23** can also be used to achieve such a result. In such deployments, the display **12** can be used, for example, to provide information regarding with which of the plurality of movable barrier operators the remote control device is presently communicating or otherwise interacting. As another example, the display **12** can provide a simultaneous display of status information for each such movable barrier operator (such as, but not limited to, status information regarding a present location of each corresponding movable barrier, a present direction of movement for each such corresponding movable barrier, present maximum force setting values for each such corresponding movable barrier, present obstacle detection information for each such corresponding movable barrier, historical movable barrier characteristics, and so forth).

[0026] It would also be possible to configure a system having one or more movable barrier operators with a plurality of movable barrier operator system operational components **11**, including but not limited to a plurality of remote control devices. For example, a given system might include two wall-mounted remote control devices and three portable wireless remote control devices. Pursuant to these teachings at least one of these remote control devices will comprise an integral display **12**. In many application settings, however, it will likely be preferred to include such a display with a larger subset and, in some settings, with each such remote control device.

[0027] Substantial advantages can be realized through provision of such a display. It now becomes possible to provide a greater depth of information regarding presently selected or selectable operating features and/or operating parameters and status. This, in turn, makes it considerably easier to provide a richer suite of operating options and features. By providing a display comprising, at least in part, a touch screen display, these benefits are likely leveraged further because user input can be elicited when required (or useful) in a manner that can be far more intuitive and/or guided than is presently attainable with typical standard practices in this field of endeavor.

[0028] Pursuant to some embodiments, and referring now to FIG. **3**, the display **12** can be configured in conjunction with at least one discrete and separate user-assertable control surface **31**. This control surface **31** can comprise, for example, a push button, a keypad key, a multi-position switch, or the like. In a preferred embodiment this control surface **31** comprises a part of the movable barrier operator system operational component **11**. Although such a control surface **31** can be position essentially anywhere on (or in) such a movable barrier operator system operational component **11**, in a preferred approach at least one such control surface **31** is disposed proximal to the display **12** itself.

[0029] When providing a plurality of such control surfaces, and referring now to FIG. **4**, some of the control surfaces (such as the control surfaces denoted by reference numerals **41** and **42**) can be disposed proximal to the display **12** and some of the control surfaces **43** can be disposed distal to the display **12**. If desired, the display **12** can provide information that characterizes in some useful way a corresponding one of the control surfaces. To illustrate this approach, in FIG. **4**, a first one of the control surfaces **41** has the word "FORCE" presented proximal thereto on the display **12** while a second one of the control surfaces **42** has the word "TIME" presented